

Remarks

Applicants and the undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for her efforts in the examination of this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 12-16 under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 12-16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonon (US 6,322,533) as modified by Salerno et al. (US 5,336,170).

Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 12-16 have been amended to depend from Claim 18, which has been indicated as allowable, and thus Claims 1-3, 5-9, and 12-16 are believed also allowable.

II. Rejection of Claim 4 under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claim 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonon as modified by Salerno et al., and further in view of Stoller et al. (US 2004/0034339).

Claim 4 is now dependent from Claim 18, which has been indicated as allowable, and thus Claim 4 is believed also allowable.

III. Rejection of Claim 11 under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claim 4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonon as modified by Salerno et al., and further in view of Sanese (US 5,368,569).

Claim 11 is now dependent from Claim 18, which has been indicated as allowable, and thus Claim 11 is believed also allowable.

IV. Rejection of Claim 17 under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claim 17 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonon as modified by Salerno et al., and further in view of Romanelli et al. (US 4,755,168).

Claim 17 is now dependent from Claim 18, which has been indicated as allowable, and thus Claim 17 is believed also allowable.

Conclusions

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments place this application in a condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully solicited. Applicants and the undersigned would like to again thank the Examiner for her efforts in the examination of this application and for reconsideration of the claims as amended in light of the arguments presented. If the further prosecution of the application can be facilitated through telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,


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